

**South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association Meeting
07 July 2020**

- Guests: City Council Liaison and City Neighbourhood Liaison
- Residents: 13
- Meeting took place online due to the pandemic restrictions

1. Update from Neighbourhood Liaison

- City Hall has been pretty quiet but is becoming more and more busy with 400 working successfully from home. City is preparing for phase 2 of COVID pandemic this winter.
- There are grant proposals available. If you'd like to do something specific in your NH we have up to \$500* matching funds. No deadline for your applications and City Council has approved a more timely process of approval. There's more than \$200,000 to be used.

* correction: amount should be \$5000.

2. Update from City Council

- Council looking at reallocation of funds for community-building/enhancing in response to COVID related changes.
- Meeting in August to reconsider all 2020 budgets. We're going to be facing some dramatic changes this year and next. Many things put on hold. We need to maintain services and response to different aspects of the pandemic. We'll then roll into the 2021 budget with expenditures we didn't anticipate.
- Approved the bicycle master plan and it's moving along. Our segment will be in the future and there will be some communication with us about that.
- City consulting with the Police Dept a proposal to consider adding civilian resources. This has some remarkable possibilities and an important conversation for us to be involved with.
- Pedestrianization underway and will enable maximization of downtown spaces and encourage more of us to be downtown.

Q: Re the policing piece you mentioned, is there coordination with Saanich, Esquimalt and First Nations?

A: Yes; using indigenous practice to inform alternative processes; possibly not so much with Saanich and Oak Bay whose practices are quite different than ours. Working closely with Esquimalt with whom we share a police force.

Q: How can we take advantage of some of the grant funds and ideas when many have limited time and resources?

A: N Park doesn't have a community centre either and has hired a part time coordinator who can do the bulk of the coordinator of organizing a neighbourhood pod to enhance what we're already doing. We recognize you're all volunteers and may require additional support.

Q: Does the City have staff in place to respond to people who need services related to the pandemic?

A: For assistance related to seniors: dial 211 and you'll be put in touch with the relevant service organization.

3. Roundtable - how is COVID-19 impacting our community?

- A flyer about horticulture was created and shared with the residents. The get-growing project was organized and they gave away over 1000 plants in 2 hours!
- Many people are interested in having a community garden.
- Maybe we could have a city-wide mulch drop. We could write a letter letting the City know about our hopes for this to happen. It was suggested that if we write letter to Kim and Marianne as it may be addressed more quickly than to Mayor and Council.
- Unfortunate we're not able to use the lot at Oak Bay
- How can we engage the residents in the apartments? These residents may be the people who are facing more challenges during the pandemic. Can we reach out to the building managers and see how we can get our newsletters into the buildings? Apparently this had been done in the past but the apartment dwellers weren't interested. However, times have changed and with an increased level of self isolation, they may appreciate being reached out to.
- Marianne: This is something worth applying for a grant to do. We could consider employing someone who could take on this project.
- Kimberley: Suggests a few people get together to look at the application form. The intention could be to find a champion in every building willing to take this on. There are examples of post cards that have been distributed for this project. Suggests task force getting in touch with the neighbourhood coordinator in North Park who will have suggestions to share.
- Wonderful to see neighbours outside at 7pm making music, singing and dancing in the streets to celebrate the essential workers.
- Need to be aware of people and offer special acts of kindness whenever we can.
- Feeling a lot of gratitude for living where we do.

DECIDED to create a task force with a mandate to consider applying for a grant for the purpose of hiring a part-time neighbourhood coordinator. The task force will research the grant application process and confer with the coordinator in North Park to see how this role has benefited their neighbourhood. Wayne, Gail, and Murray (when he's finished the historical sign project) offered to serve on this task force. Ben also offers to help with senior related activities.

4. Plans for Recycle Day

- A brief update was shared about plans for recycle which is taking place this Saturday July 11th from 10-12, and how this activity will be carried out following the guidelines of the provincial government related to the pandemic.

5. Development Update re Bank Street School

- We received a letter, 25 June 2020, from the District Associate Superintendent of the School District informing us that
 - They are delaying the opening of Sundance as an SD61 elementary school until September 2021 due to the pandemic.
 - They are planning to change the property at Bank St & Leighton to increase enrolment capacity by either demolishing or renovating the building. Currently there is no time line in place.
- We have been informed that the current tenant of the Bank Street School, the Victoria College of Art is leaving those premises and the resident caretaker has been asked to move out. This venue has been used by the SJNA for more than 20 years, serving as a

meeting place and for recycle, as well as other neighbourhood activities. Concerns expressed that the SJNA is not being engaged in any consultation with the School District about the possible renovation/demolition of this building. Residents are also concerned that if the building is left empty for a long period of time, it could be vandalized and become an unattractive safety hazard.

- Marianne: you may wish to ensure that whatever the School District is planning, that there's going to be some space in the building for community use. It is important for the School District to have on record the opinions and recommendations of the SJNA. She noted that it is reasonable that you be included in any consultations about the plans for the building. She would like to be copied on the letter to the School District.

DECIDED The SJNA Board of Directors will write a letter to the School District expressing our desire to be part of the consultations about any changes to the Bank St. School property, letting them know that the SJNA has been utilizing space at that location for its meetings and neighbourhood activities for more than 20 years. The letter will also include our recommendation that the current caretaker continue to look after the building so that it is maintained. We will also make note that there has been a focus on the Arts in our neighbourhood with the Victoria College of Arts and Sundance School and that we hope this legacy will continue to be enhanced and reflect that legacy going forward. Garry offers to draft this letter.

6. Historical Signs Project

- An update of the progress of this project was offered with images of the signs projected for our viewing. There have been some things that have slowed the project down like getting permissions for content and the very busy sign companies due to the pandemic. There will be an extra \$200 if the City applies for the permits. There will also be an extra charge if the signs are cut to complement the design of the signs. Comments were shared about the placement of the signs which have been made in consideration of the content.

DECIDED to approve of the extra expenditures needed to complete the project for a total of \$5500 with appreciation expressed to the task force for all their hard work on getting this project completed.

7. CALUC Update

- A map of our neighbourhood was projected to outline the development proposals being made to the City which are at various stages in the process. We can view progress online as usual.
- Marianne: noted that we need to keep in mind that applications can continue so long as they will abide by the public health guidelines re pandemic.

8. Financial Accounts

- Our Treasurer shared that he has done the accounts to the end of the fiscal year. Our balance is just over \$8000. We can look more closely at the financial report during the upcoming AGM.

9. Next Meeting (AGM): Tuesday September 15th online at 7pm